

HOUSE No. 900

By Mr. Kennedy of Brockton, petition of Thomas P. Kennedy and Benjamin Swan for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to compensating persons incarcerated and subsequently found to be innocent. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY BY A SPECIAL COMMISSION RELATIVE TO COMPENSATING PERSONS UNJUSTLY SENTENCED TO PRISON.

1 *Resolved*, That a special commission to consist of two mem-
2 bers of the senate, five members of the house of representatives
3 and two persons to be appointed by the governor is hereby estab-
4 lished for the purpose of making an investigation and study
5 relative to providing adequate compensation to innocent persons
6 who were unjustly convicted of crimes and served a jail or prison
7 sentence. Said investigation and study shall include, but not be
8 limited to, the circumstances leading to the conviction such as
9 inadequate counsel, prosecutorial misconduct and appellate court
10 rulings and findings. Said commission shall hold public hearings.
11 Said commission shall report to the house of representatives the
12 results of its investigation and study and its recommendations, if
13 any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its rec-
14 ommendations into effect by filing the same with the clerk of the
15 house of representatives on or before December 31, 2004